

The Immortal Fame

OF

Abraham Lincoln



Behold the flag of America, the Star-Spangled Banner; the old flag; Hail it, fellow citizens, vow to it unswerving loyalty and devotion.

Abraham Lincoln is the savior of the union; fortunately for America, he is also the exemplar of American democracy.

—John Ireland, Archbishop of St. Paul.

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Grand and Sublime Thoughts

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To the Remnant
of
Lincoln's
Brave and Loyal Army



Fate struck the hour!

A crisis hour of Time.

The tocsin of a people clanging forth
Thro' the wild South and thro' the startled North
Called for a leader, master of his kind,
Fearless and firm, with clear foreseeing mind;
Who should not flinch from calumny or scorn,
Who in the depth of night could ken the morn;

Wielding a giant power

Humbly, with faith sublime.

God knew the man His sovereign grace had sealed;
God touched the man, and Lincoln stood revealed!



Immortal Fame of Abraham Lincoln

Speech in 1840

"Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may lose hers; but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was last to desert, but that I never deserted, her."

Remarks to the Committee

That Notified Him, at His Home, May, 1860, of His Nomination

"Gentlemen, we must pledge our mutual health in this most healthy beverage which God has given man. It is the only beverage I have ever used or allowed in my family, and I cannot conscientiously depart from it on the present occasion. It is pure Adam's ale from the well."

A Quiet Talk in the State House, Springfield, Ill.,

During the Campaign of 1860

"I know there is a God, and that He hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming, and I know that His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for me,—and I think He has,—I believe I am ready."

"I am nothing, but truth is everything. I know I am right because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God."

Mr. Lincoln in closing his farewell address at Springfield in 1861, as he started to Washington, said: "I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed, with that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To his care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

“The Majority of The American People Must Rule”

**Remarks When he Raised a New Flag Over Independence Hall,
Philadelphia, February, 22, 1861**

“It is on such an occasion as this that we can reason together—re-affirm our devotion to the country and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Let us make up our mind that when we do put a new star upon our banner, it shall be a fixed one. never to be dimmed by the horrors of war, but brightened by the contentment and prosperity of peace.

“Let us go on to extend the area of our usefulness, add star upon star; until their light shall shine upon five hundred millions of a free and happy people.”

Letter to Gutberth Bullett of New Orleans

July 28, 1862

“I am in no boastful mood. I shall not do more than I can, but shall do all I can to save the government; which is my sworn duty as well as my personal inclination. I shall do nothing in malice. What I deal with is too vast for malicious dealings.”

“Whatever Appears to be God’s Will, I Will do it”

**Reply to a Deputation From All Religious Denominations of Chicago,
September 13, 1862**

“I hope it will not be irreverent for me to say that if it is probable that God would reveal His will to others on a point so connected with my duty, it might be supposed He would reveal it directly to me; for, unless I am more deceived in myself than I often am, it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence in this matter. And if I can learn what it is I will do it.

“These are not, however, the days of miracles, and I suppose it will be granted that I am not to expect a direct revelation. I must study the plain physical facts of the case, ascertain what is possible, and learn what appears to be wise and right. Whatever appears to be God’s will I will do it.”

Address to the Army of the Potomac

December, 22, 1862

“Condoling with the mourners for the dead, and sympathizing with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small. I tender to you, officers and soldiers, the thanks of the nation.”

“The Government Must be Perpetuated”

“In my administration I might have committed some errors. It would be indeed remarkable if I had not. I have acted according to my best judgment in every case. As a pilot I have used my best exertions to keep afloat our Ship of State, and shall be glad to resign my trust at the appointed time to another pilot more skillful and successful than I may prove. In every case, and at all hazards, the Government must be perpetuated.”

Reply to Erastus Corning, and Others, of New York

Who had Protested Against the Arrest of C. L. Vallandigham

“Must I shoot a simple-minded boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert?”

“I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy.”

Speech at a Ladies’ Fair, for the Benefit of the Soldiers

Washington, March, 16, 1864

“I am not accustomed to the use of language of eulogy; I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that, if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of women, were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during the war.

“I will close by saying God bless the women of America!”

Pardon for a Sleeping Sentry

“I could not think of going into eternity with the blood of the poor young man on my skirts. It is not to be wondered at that a boy raised on a farm, probably in the habit of going to bed at dark, should, when required to watch, fall asleep; and I cannot consent to shoot him for such an act.”

Remarks to Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe

“Whichever way it ends, I have the impression that I shall not last long after it is over.”

“I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee, was driven back from Pennsylvania, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves.”

Greatest Credit Due the Common Soldier

Remarks to the 189th N. Y. Infantry Regiment, October 24, 1864

"It is said that we have the best government the world ever knew, and I am glad to meet you, the supporters of that government. To you, who rendered the hardest work in its support, should be given the greatest credit. Others who are connected with it, and who occupy higher positions—their duties can be dispensed with; but we cannot get along without your aid. While others differ with the administration, and, perhaps, honestly, the soldiers generally have sustained it; they have not only fought right, but, so far as could be judged from their actions, they have voted right, and I, for one, thank you for it."

"When I left Springfield I asked the people to pray for me, I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ."

"To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on."

"Gold is good in its place; but living, brave and patriotic men are better than gold."

"This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free."

Happiest Day of Four Years

The following remarks were made by the President to Admiral David D. Porter, while on board the flag-ship *Malvern*, on the James River in front of Richmond the day the city surrendered:

"Thank God, that I have lived to see this! It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone. I want to see Richmond."

To Hon. Schuyler Colfax, upon receiving bad news from the army.

"How willingly would I exchange places today with the soldier who sleeps on the ground in the Army of the Potamac!"

When President Lincoln reached Philadelphia on his memorable journey to Washington in February, 1861, he was informed by a detective, that his enemies were plotting against his life, and that it would be unsafe for him to appear prominently in public. Mr. Lincoln heard the officer's statement in detail and then said: "I have promised to raise the American flag on old Independence Hall tomorrow morning—the anniversary of Washington's birthday—and in the afternoon to attend a reception by the Pennsylvania Legislature, and both of these engagements I will keep if it costs me my life."

A Dramatic Incident at Lincoln's Inauguration

In his later life Nast remembered much of this Washington experience with that feeling of shuddering horror with which we recall a disordered dream. Mr. Albert Bigelow Pain in describing some of Nast's experiences just before the Civil War, in the June Pearson's.

"The atmosphere was charged with forboding. Even the busy days about the Willard Hotel were strewn with ominous incidents.

"The day of inauguration was one of gloom, and the city drew a great breath of relief when it was over and there had been no outbreak. Yet the tension was not relaxed. The men who had sworn that Abraham Lincoln should never take his seat were not gone. Night came down, brooding danger.

"It seemed to me," said Nast, "that the shadow of death was everywhere. I had endless visions of black funeral parades, accompanied by mournful music. It was as if the whole city were mined, and I know now that this was figuratively true. A single yell of defiance would have inflamed a mob. A shot would have started a conflict. In my room at the Willard Hotel I was trying to work. I picked up my pencils and laid them down as many as a dozen times. I got up at last and walked the floor. Presently in the rooms next mine other men were walking. I could hear them in the silence. My head was beginning to throb, and I sat down and pressed my hands to my temples.

"Then, all at once, in the Ebbett House, across the way, a window was flung up and a man stepped out on the balcony. The footsteps about me ceased. Everybody had heard the man and was waiting breathlessly to see what he would do. Suddenly, in a rich, powerful voice, he began to sing 'The Star Spangled Banner.'

"The result was extraordinary. Windows were thrown up. Crowds gathered on the streets. A multitude of voices joined in the song. When it was over the street rang with cheers. The men in the rooms next mine joined me in the corridor. The hotel came to life. Guests wept and flung their arms about one another. Dissension and threat were silenced. It seemed to me, and I believe to all of us, that Washington had been saved by the inspiration of an unknown man with a voice to sing that grand old song of songs."

Beautiful Tributes

When Mr. Lincoln took the oath of office and registered in Heaven an oath to save the union, not any man was able to stand before him. Liberty was enthroned, the union saved, and the flag which he carried floated in triumph and glory upon every flag staff of the Republic.—William McKinley.

The life of Lincoln should never be passed by in silence by young or old. He touched the log cabin and it became the palace in which greatness was nurtured. He touched the forest and it became to him a church in which the purest and noblest worship of God was observed. His occupation has become associated in our minds with the integrity of the life he lived. In Lincoln there was always some quality that fastened him to the people and taught them to keep time to the music of the heart.—David Swing.

His heart was as great as the world, but there was no room in it to hold the memory of a wrong. So, with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gave him to see the right "he lived and died."

The kindly, earnest, brave, foreseeing man, sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame, new birth of our new soil, the first American.

Lincoln's lesson to me and to my age and to the ages yet to come is that American liberty. American institutions are permanent and shall endure forever.—John A. Johnson.

Next to Washington, Lincoln stands forth as the grandest patriot in our American life. Washington was the "Father of his Country;" Lincoln was her most loyal son; Washington brought the United States of America into being; Lincoln made that being immortal; Washington unfurled a new flag among the nations of the world; Lincoln made that flag a mighty power among those nations. Dead, they yet speak. The

good they did will last through time and on through eternity. And so our Nation has most rightly and fittingly made the birthdays of those, her illustrious sons, legal holidays, to inspire us to a purer, nobler, holier manhood.—Geo. H. Smythe, Jr.

In the supreme crisis of American history, his faith in the ultimate triumph of popular institutions never failed him. By that faith he saved the nation.—William C. Morey.

Nothing which can be done to perpetuate his fame, to keep him ever before the coming generations of his countrymen, should be omitted.—C. F. Burnam.

He could receive counsel from a child and give counsel to a sage. The simple approached him with ease, and the learned approached him with deference.—Frederick Douglass.

His earnest desire seemed to be to end the war speedily without more bloodshed or devastation, and to restore all the men of both sections to their homes.—W. T. Sherman.

It pleased him better to pardon than to punish, and to overcome his and the country's enemies by transforming them into friends.—Samuel J. Nichols.

We are indebted to him for the consistent example in private and public life, and for some of the noblest sentiments of humanity ever spoken.—Elias Nason.

At City Point he moved down the long line of prostrate men, visiting each cot, taking the sick soldier by the hand, laying his hand on the pale brow, speaking a kind word to this one and that—till he had shed sunshine in every invalid's heart.—Robert Lowry.

His "firmness in the right, as God gave him to see," was to him faith, courage, patience, and boundless endurance.—Joshua F. Speed.

Few men in the world's history have been privileged to do a work involving so much benefit to mankind.—Newman Hall.

His life was one of true patriotism, and his character one of honesty and of the highest type of religious sentiment.—Alex. Ramsey.

The ripest and fairest fruit that has fallen from our American tree of civilization is Abraham Lincoln.—R. B. Anderson.

His life, even at the moment it was taken away, was the most important and precious life in our whole land.—Robert C. Winthrop.

"With malice toward none" was his dying charge. It sounds strangely like the last words of Him who, when dying on the cross, looked down upon his murderers and prayed: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."—Daniel C. Eddy.

There is in the crown of England no diamond whose luster will not pale before the name of Abraham Lincoln.—Robert Ingersoll.

Courts and kingdoms might be searched in vain for a prince who, by tradition and culture, had attained such wisdom in the government of men as had the son of the backwoods.—Frederick Smyth.

Never, amid the utmost fury of the storm that was beating around him, did his composure desert him; he had his work to do, and he meant to do it. His cheerfulness relieved the burden of duty and the gloom of his friends.—Edward C. Slater.

No other President of this nation has been subjected to a trial such as his. He was a man lost in the wilderness, where there was no visible road for escape, and we complained of him because he tried honestly to make the best road he could to get out at all.—R. J. Keeling.

We seem to have agreed to place him upon a pedestal where no other feet shall ever be suffered to stand—an altitude of worth and greatness where none may approach and rival him.—Wm. Irvin.

Great, illustrious, and successful as was his statesmanship; clear, penetrating, and vigorous, his manhood must be acknowledged as that which has most enshrined him in the hearts of his countrymen.—Edward Searing.

The character of Abraham Lincoln was beautifully molded by the efforts of a mother, and the American people saw them in him when they called him to be the chief magistrate of the nation.—Robert H. Williams.

Abraham Lincoln threw himself into the deadly breach to perpetuate the freedom and integrity of the nation.—D. L. Gear.

Through all the disastrous days and years of the long conflict, it was a gift of superlative greatness in Mr. Lincoln to know just how much and how little to say and do.—Charles Hammond.

The greatest man of his age—A. E. Burnside.

An ardent lover of his whole country, hating no one, desiring to punish no one, yearning to see the Union restored, and the old good will and good humor return to bless the land.—Albert Pike.

The name of Abraham Lincoln will shine with ever-increasing luster, as the result of his public life and services shall be more clearly manifested.—Henry S. Frieze.

Some men at his very side chided him for slowness, but it did not quicken his step, and others, equally near to him in influence, rebuked him for hastiness, but it availed nothing to check his onward progress.—Henry Darling.

I believe, in all the annals of our race, Abraham Lincoln is the finest example of an unknown man rising from obscurity and ascending to the loftiest heights of human grandeur.—James Speed.

It is my humble judgment that in all positions the great crisis forced him into, he was a perfect fit.—J. M. Bailey.

He was not an orator, and yet where in the English language can be found eloquence of higher tone or more magnetic power than his Gettysburg speech?—Hugh McCullough.

Grandly and alone he walked his way through this life, and the world had no honors, no emoluments, no reproaches, no shames, no punishments which he could not have borne without swerving or bias.—Jane Grey Swisshelm.

Behold him! standing with hand reached out to feed the South with mercy and the North with charity, and the whole land with peace, when the Lord, who had sent him, called him, and his work was done.—Phillips Brooks.

He did more to perpetuate the existence of free institutions than any man that has ever lived, and the debt mankind owes his memory can never be repaid.—George Stoneman.

Never before did man raise himself from utter obscurity to a place of such honorable and lasting fame, where he shall stand as long as men keep the record of the great and good.—Henry E. Badger.

The next generation will acknowledge that the man who rose from a log cabin to the presidential chair, who led a vast republic through its wilderness of perilous confusion and its red sea of horrible carnage, was a man who has no superior in the American annals.—Theodore L. Cuvler.

When all seemed dark—not a ray of sunshine, or even the faintest flicker of a star could be seen penetrating the political firmament—he stood undisturbed.—Lewis H. Steiner.

With a trusting, noble, fearless heart he had never hesitated to mingle with the people. He had gone to the front, and made himself accessible to all at home. He had shown himself ready to answer every reasonable summons, and was not afraid of any living man.—A. S. Patton.

I am sure, as millions have said, that, take him for all in all, we never shall look upon his like again.—J. W. Forney.

He rose, not like a blazing comet that rushes through the sky and is gone, but like a star, gradually rising with increasing luster, until he covered the whole nation with a sheen of glory.—S. L. Yourtee.

He has not only been the head of an administration which shaped events, the mightiest of the century, but its balance wheel also. The American people owe to him that the important steps in the war for the preservation of the Union were taken just at the fitting moment.—Eugene Hale.

His noble qualities inspired generous confidence and commanded general respect, and his successful administration will be evidence, in all time to come, of his own worth and the wisdom of his measures—Lewis Cass.

He was the greatest president in American history, because in a time of revolution he comprehended the spirit of American institutions.—Lyman Abbott.

Amid the doings of the great of every clime will his deeds be recorded. Among the teachings of the wise will his sayings be written. His is a name that will not be forgotten. The living of today will tell it to the unborn, and they in turn will repeat it to the remotest age.—William H. Murray.

To the young men I would say, listen to him, imitate his glorious life, live like him, for God, your country, and the rights of all men. Be pure in heart and purpose as was your great President. Be loyal as he was loyal. Let the inspiration of his memory be one of the guiding stars of your future life.—M. P. Gaddis.

Greater difficulties than his no one ever met; heavier responsibilities than his never burdened any human soul, and through the whole he has borne himself with a calmness, a patience, a perseverance, a steadfastness of aim, an honesty of purpose, a fidelity to his country, that will assign to him an eminent place in the history of the world.—Samuel T. Spear.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural, Death and Eulogies

The following are the sublime closing words of President Lincoln's Second Inaugural:

"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his children to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all the nations."

He was struck down just as the rainbow was spanning the clearing sky, just as he was about to open, in the name of the nation, the bright gates of the Temple of Peace, just when passion was quenching her fires, and the spears and the bow were being broken asunder.—Henry Fox.

On the day when the flag of thy love was to be again raised on Fort Sumter, where it had first been lowered, thou wast slain. Not for a life unfinished do we mourn, though thou was now gridding thyself for the greater victories of peace. God saw the end. We did not.—Henry E. Butler.

He fell as his thousands had fallen on the field of battle—suddenly, and in the hour of victory. A man from among the people, a man who would have wept for the poorest drummer-boy of his great army.—T. H. Robinson.

Gen. James A. Garfield said:

"The President is dead, but God Almighty reigns and the government at Washington lives."

At the moment of Lincoln's death, Stanton pronounced this beautiful eulogy.

"There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has even seen."

Bishop Simpson, one of Lincoln's closest personal friends, said in his funeral oration at Springfield, Illinois:

"He believed in Christ, the Savior of sinners, and I think he was sincerely trying to bring his life into the principles of revealed religion. Certainly, if there ever was a man who illustrated some of the principles of pure religion, that man was our departed President. I doubt if any President has ever shown such trust in God, or in public documents so frequently referred to divine aid."

Just as the blood and wounds of contending armies were drying up and healing on those silent and deserted battlefields, the chair of state sinks into the bier of death, on which lies that which was once the warm and useful life of Abraham Lincoln.—David C. Coddington.

Chieftain, farewell! The nation mourns thee. Mothers shall teach thy name to their lisping children. The youth of our land shall emulate thy virtues. Statesmen shall study thy record, and learn lessons of wisdom. Mute though thy lips be, yet they still speak. Hushed is thy voice, but its echoes of liberty are ringing through the world, and the sons of bondage listen with joy.—Matthew Simpson.

Four years ago, oh, Illinois, we took him from your midst, an untried man from among the people. Behold, we return him a mighty conqueror. Not thine, but the nation's; not ours, but the world's. Give him place, ye prairies! In the midst of this great continent his dust shall rest, a sacred treasure to myriads who shall pilgrim to that shrine, to kindle anew their zeal and patriotism.—Henry Ward Beecher.

He touched the manacles of four millions of men and women, and in the twinkle of an eye they drop off forever.—Wm. P. Frye.

Whether receiving the plaudits of a country court for a successful defense, or the homage and praise of millions in this and other lands for the liberation of a long-oppressed race and the preservation of the nation's life, he was the same modest, self-forgetting, unelated man.—Wilbur F. Paddock.

His eyes had looked upon the stronghold, which had so long defied our armies: and over it was the dear old flag! In one sense, this was a choice hour in which to die; and in it he died—died without pain—sealing with his blood the testimony of his lips and life.—Richard B. Duane.

A Perfect Tribute

Captain Carter Hampton Blair, a confederate officer who was mortally wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and was a prisoner of war at Washington City, in talking to President Lincoln, without knowing who the kind man was, said:

"I'm southern to the core of me, and I believe with my soul in the cause, I've fought for, the cause I'm dying for, but that President of yours is a remarkable man. He's inspired by principle, not by animosity, in the fight, he's real and he's powerful."

"Do you know that he yesterday made one of the great speeches of history?"

President Lincoln listened in silence to the young confederate officer that knew he was giving his life for the cause of the South. Then Captain Blair said, "My sister tells me that when President Lincoln's great speech was ended the vast audience held its breath. There was not a hand lifted to applaud. Why, one might as well applaud the Lord's Prayer. No sound from that vast throng. It seems to me, an enemy, that the silence was the most perfect tribute that has ever been paid by any people to any orator."

Address at Gettysburg

Forescore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.

The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

November 19, 1863.

A. LINCOLN.



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